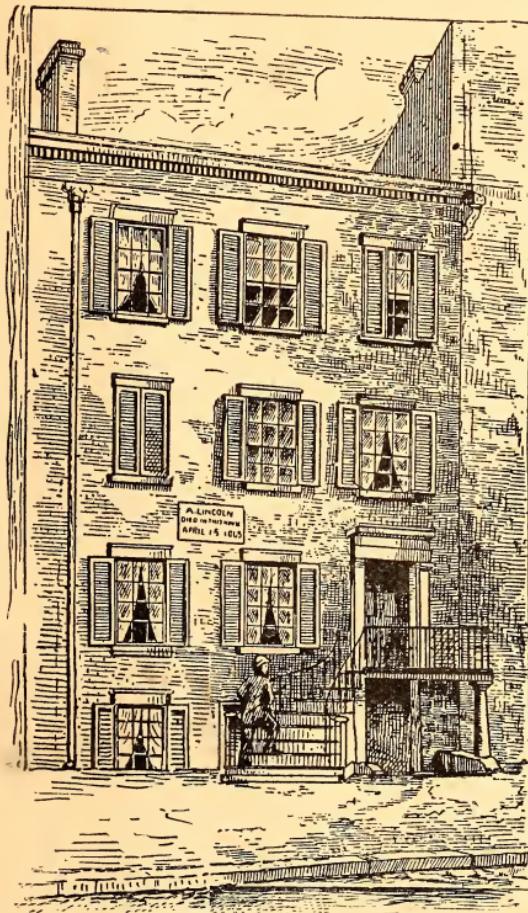


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10

# HISTORIC WASHINGTON.



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No. 516 TENTH STREET N.W.

BY THE  
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Price 10 Cents.

Laura McLean



THIS Association has been organized for the three-fold purpose :

1. Of preserving the most noteworthy houses at the Capital that have been made historic by the residence of the greatest men of the nation.
2. Of suitably marking, by tablets or otherwise, the houses and places throughout the city of chief interest to our own residents, and to the multitudes of Americans and foreigners who annually visit the Capital.
3. Of thus cultivating that historic spirit and reverence for the memories of the founders and leaders of the Republic upon which an intelligent and abiding patriotism so largely depends.

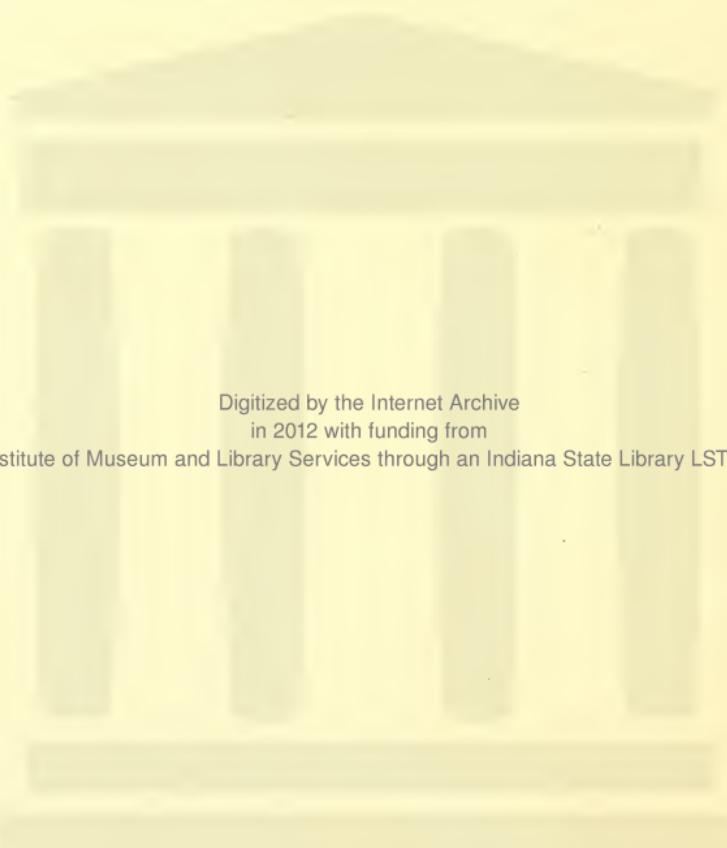
This preliminary pamphlet has been prepared with as much care as the time would allow, under our direction, by the well-known author, Mr. Charles Lanman.

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WASHINGTON IN 1813.

### THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Constitution of the United States provides that Congress may exercise exclusive jurisdiction "over such district, not exceeding ten miles square, as may by cession of particular States and the acceptance of Congress become the seat of the Government of the United States." Virginia and Maryland offered to cede such District, and Congress, by act passed in 1790, accepted "it for the permanent seat of Government." The same act also provided for the appointment, by the President, of three commissioners, who, under his direction, should survey and locate the territory, and "provide suitable buildings for the accommodation of Congress and of the President, and for the public offices of the Government of the United States."

The President, George Washington, by proclamation dated March 30, 1791, located the District ten miles square, and directed the commissioners to run the boundary lines. At the same time he entered into an agreement on behalf of the United States with the holders of all the land from Rock Creek along the river to Eastern Branch, and so upwards to or above the ferry, by which the proprietors retained every other lot, and for the remaining lots they were to be paid at the rate of £25, or \$66.66, an acre, no allowance being made for streets and alleys. No appropriation was made for the payment of the purchase-money, and it was raised by the sale of the lots deeded to the United States.

By the act of Congress the seat of Government was to remain in Philadelphia for ten years, and at the expiration of that period it was to be removed to Washington, "the only child of the nation."

In 1846 that portion of the District ceded by Virginia to the United States was retroceded to that State.

By act of Congress June 20, 1874, the municipal governments of Washington and Georgetown were abolished, and the present form of government by District Commissioners adopted.



SUTER'S TAVERN IN 1791.

SUTER'S TAVERN,  
GEN. WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS.

The first tavern in the District was kept by John Suter, a Scotchman, on M street, facing Jefferson street, Georgetown, a long, low wooden building, where General Washington met the architects, commissioners, and landholders to arrange for the survey of the District, and the purchase and transfer of the

property to the Government. During this time he resided at Mount Vernon, whence he rode on horseback to Georgetown each morning. He wrote to Daniel Carroll as follows :

PHILADELPHIA, PA., *March 11, 1791.*

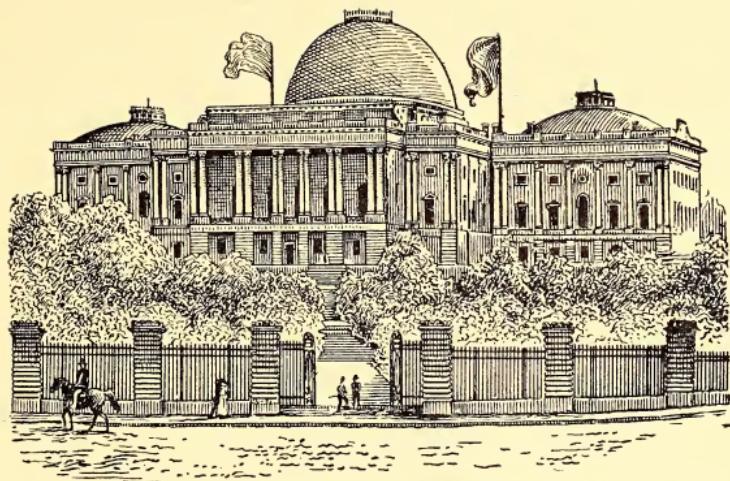
DEAR SIR : I write to you by this post in conformity with my promise to do so. But it is not yet in my power to determine whether I can set out on Monday or not. If I find the roads do not mend between this time and that I shall not be anxious about beginning on that day, even if business should permit. As my fixing the day for meeting the commissioners at Georgetown must depend on my departure from this place, I cannot determine upon the former until the latter is decided. I shall write to you again by the Monday's post, and in that letter shall be able to say with certainty when I leave this city.

With very great esteem, I am, dear sir,

Your most obedient servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

DANIEL CARROLL, Esq.



THE CAPITOL IN 1827.

## THE CAPITOL.

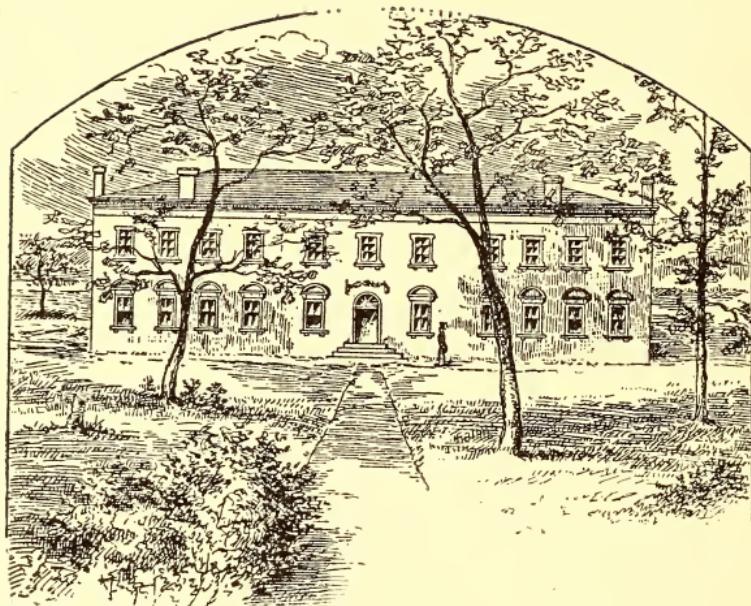
The Capitol of the United States stands in a large park overlooking Arlington on one side, and the Potomac as far as Mt. Vernon on the other. The south-east corner-stone was laid on the 18th day of September, 1793, by President Washington, with imposing Masonic and military ceremonies. Only one wing was completed when the seat of Government was removed from Philadelphia to Washington, in June, 1800. Pennsylvania avenue, from the Capitol to the Presidential Mansion, was then nearly the whole distance a deep morass covered with alder bushes, which were cut through the width of the intended avenue the ensuing winter.

August 24, 1814, Washington City was captured by the British. The Capitol, President's house, two buildings containing the public offices, Mr. Sewall's home, Mr. Carroll's hotel, General Washington's house, all three on Capitol Hill, were burned. Several houses were plundered by the soldiers and sailors, and the types and presses of Messrs. Gales & Seaton were mostly destroyed; also the workshop in the Navy Yard, a ship of war, and public stores. On the 26th of August the British retreated to their ships, leaving most of their wounded behind. A building was furnished by the citizens of Washington for the use of Congress. In 1815 Congress determined to restore the Capitol in its original style, and in 1827 it was completed. The building was surmounted by a balustrade of stone, and was 145 feet high from base to central dome. Its length was 352 ft. 4 in.; depth of wings, 121 ft. 6 in.; height of wings, 70 ft. Cost of building up to that time was \$1,746,-718.33.

Congress in 1851 determined to add two wings to the Capitol, the corner-stone of which was laid by President Fillmore and his Secretary of State, Daniel Webster. In 1855 Congress authorized the removal of the dome, and the construction of one of iron. The House of Representatives took possession of its chamber December 16, 1857, the first speech therein being made on that day by the Hon. S. S. Cox, of Ohio; and the Senate of its chamber January 4, 1859. To the year 1871 the expenditures were: for the main

building, \$3,000,000; dome, \$1,000,000; extensions north and south, \$8,000,000; miscellaneous expenditures, \$1,000,000—a total of \$13,000,000. The expenditures for purchase of land, landscape gardening, and works of art, have brought the total cost to about \$30,000,000.

The length of the building is about 800 feet, and the height to top of dome 300 feet.



THE WHITE HOUSE IN 1800.

THE WHITE HOUSE;

OR,

EXECUTIVE MANSION.

---

The corner-stone was laid October 13, 1792. John Adams, in 1800, was the first President who resided there. It was a plain two-story house, devoid of ornament, and called the White House, after Martha Washington's home in Virginia. Mrs. Adams writes

"there is not a single apartment finished, and the East Room I make a drying-room to hang up the clothes." It was burned by the British in 1814, and the next year Congress authorized its restoration, and it was occupied in 1818, when President Madison gave a New Year reception. Later, the South Portico was added, and in 1829 the North Portico. The money expended on the Executive Mansion from 1800 to 1885 was \$2,500,000. The average amount annually expended in maintaining the mansion, including the care of grounds, parks, and gardens, is forty-three thousand dollars. The furniture of the East Room, after the restoration of the White House, was brought from France, and the American eagle replaced the crown of Louis XVIII upon it. It is not known what has become of it, the present furniture having been bought within the past twelve years.

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#### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

There were originally four Departments, viz., State, Treasury, War, and Navy, which have been increased to eight by the addition of the Post Office, Justice, Interior, and Agricultural Departments. On the west of the White House were two large brick buildings, each about 150 feet long and 50 feet wide, two stories high, which were occupied by the War and Navy Departments. On the east stood two similar buildings, occupied by the State and Treasury Departments. In March, 1833, the Treasury building was burned,

and a large fire-proof building was erected, containing 150 rooms. Within the last twenty years the old State, War, and Navy buildings have been demolished, and a large new building erected, west of the White House, in which these Departments are located. The total length of this building is 523 feet; height, 142 feet. There are 553 rooms. The total cost has exceeded \$10,000,000. The floor area is upwards of ten acres.

The TREASURY is pure Grecian Ionic; has four fronts; measures 468 feet from north to south, 264 feet from east to west. It was occupied in 1841, but was greatly enlarged in 1868-'9; the total cost has been \$6,000,000. There are 48 bureaus in this Department, fifteen of which rent houses outside of the main building.

In 1793 the erection of a building was begun, as a private enterprise, on the southern half of the square now occupied by the GENERAL POST-OFFICE. The funds were raised by a lottery, but, as the leading prize was drawn by a minor, difficulty arose in the application of the money, and the building was long unfinished. It was first used as a theatre. In 1810 it was purchased by the Government, and after the burning of the Capitol Congress held one session therein. It was also occupied by the General and City Post-Offices, the Patent Office, and by the Library of Congress. In 1818 the Library was removed to the Capitol. On December 15, 1836, this building was burned, with all its contents. The public offices then occupied private buildings.

The present marble building was begun in 1839; finished in 1855. It fills the square bounded by F and E and 7th and 8th streets. It is 300 feet long by 204 wide, and the cost was \$1,700,000. In 1829 the Postmaster-General was made a Cabinet officer upon the advice of President Jackson.

The PATENT OFFICE was commenced in 1836. The south front was finished in 1842. The north front and wings at a later date. It occupies two squares, between 7th and 9th and F and G streets; measures 453 by 331 feet; contains 191 rooms, and its total cost was \$2,700,000, of which \$600,000 came from net receipts from patents. Its bureaus are the Patent Office, Indian Affairs, Land Office, Pension Office, Geological Survey, and Education, only a small part of which find room in this building. To the 14th of February, 1893, 491,972 patents have been issued, and the Patent Office has in its possession 154,000 models. The Department of the Interior was created March 3, 1849.

The building of the AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT stands on the Mall, near the Smithsonian Institution, and was built in 1868; it is 176 feet long and 61 feet wide, and, with its plant- and green-houses and plants on the experimental grounds, is a centre of perpetual beauty and interest. It has also a library and a museum of agriculture. The head of this Department was made a Cabinet officer Feb. 9, 1889.

The building of the DEPARTMENT OF JUS-

TICE, formerly the Freedman's Bureau, stands on Pennsylvania avenue, opposite the Treasury, between 15th and Madison Place. This Department was created in 1870, and has under its control the law officers in the several departments of justice.

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OCTAGON HOUSE,  
NOW  
THE HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE,

On the northeast corner of 18th street and New York avenue, was built, in 1798, by Col. John Tayloe, of Virginia. He also owned "Mt. Airy," Virginia, and lived there and at the Octagon alternately. His income was princely, and it is said that among his five hundred slaves were artisans of every class, so that he wrought iron, felled forests, and built ships without going outside of his domain.

When President Madison returned to Washington, after the burning of the White House in 1814, he resided at the Octagon, where official receptions and executive councils were held. The treaty of Ghent was signed in the Octagon room over the hall.

## DECATUR HOUSE,

NOW

## THE BEALE HOUSE,

On the corner of H street and Jackson Place, was the first dwelling built on Lafayette Square. The lot was purchased by Commodore Stephen Decatur in 1819, who built upon it a substantial and convenient home, well adapted for entertaining.

Decatur was brought home mortally wounded in his duel with Commodore Barron, fought at Bladensburg, and died the same evening, March 22, 1820. His widow continued to reside here for three years, when she removed to Kalorama, where her husband was buried, and rented the house to the Russian Minister, Baron Tuyl.

The house was subsequently occupied by three successive Secretaries of State, Henry Clay, Martin Van Buren, and Edward Livingston. It was also occupied by Sir Charles Vaughan, British Minister, and John Gadsby, the owner of Gadsby's Hotel, Baron Hyde de Neuville when Minister from France, and also by Joseph Gales, Howell Cobb, Judah P. Benjamin, John A. and James G. King, and William Appleton.

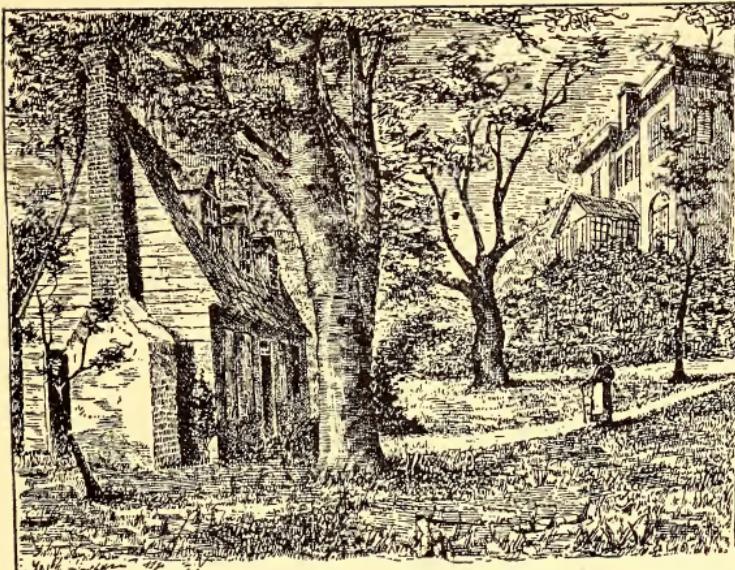
It was purchased and is now occupied by General Edward Fitzgerald Beale, a grandson of Commodore Truxton, under whom Decatur had served as midshipman.

## KALORAMA.

At the north extremity of 21st street is one of the finest of the old suburban homes, built in 1805, by Joel Barlow, a poet and politician.

Robert Fulton was a frequent visitor at this house, and here began his experiments in steam navigation, on Rock Creek.

Joel Barlow was sent by Madison as ambassador to France; during his absence Kalorama was occupied by the widow of Commodore Decatur. After the death of Mr. Barlow abroad, his niece, Clara Baldwin, who married Col. George Bomford, inherited the property, which was long known as Bomford Place. It was afterward owned by Mrs. Lovett, but was vacated during the civil war, and used as a small-pox hospital; since that time it has been restored and reoccupied by Mrs. Lovett.



DAVID BURNS' CABIN AND THE VAN NESS HOUSE.

### THE VAN NESS HOUSE

was situated at the foot of 17th street, near the Potomac river. It was built in the centre of a square of six acres, and was at the time not excelled by any private building in the country. Here originally stood the cottage of David Burns. His plantation and property descended, in 1802, to his only child, who married General John P. Van Ness, a Representative from New York. Mr. Van Ness built his fine residence within a few feet of the Burns cabin, which Mrs. Van Ness would never allow to be removed, and she frequently invited her distinguished guests to inspect it. The house was noted for its hospitality and the beauty of its location.

## THE COSMOS CLUB HOUSE.

This house, No. 1520 H street, was built by Richard Cutts, the brother-in-law of Mrs. James Madison, and was for many years her home. She rented it to John J. Crittenden, and also to William C. Preston, until 1837, when she took up her residence here, and her receptions were the centre of attraction to citizens and strangers. Here she died, July 12, 1849, at the age of 82 years. After her death, the house was purchased by Admiral Wilkes, whose heirs sold it to the Cosmos Club. It was rented at one time to the French Claims Commission, and occupied by General Belknap when Secretary of War.

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## THE BLAINE HOUSE.

The lot on Madison Place, near the corner of Pennsylvania avenue, was once the property of Henry Clay, who sold it to Commodore Rodgers, who built the house, No. 17, now standing upon it. It was also occupied by Roger B. Taney and James K. Paulding. It was at one time used as a boarding-house by Mrs. Latimer, and it was here that the Hon. Charles C. Spencer resided. It was afterward the Washington Club House. In 1856 Philip Barton Key was shot within a few feet of the door by Daniel E. Sickles, and brought into the house, where he died. It was subsequently rented to William H. Seward, and on

the night of Lincoln's assassination, April 14, 1865, Mr. Seward was confined to his bed by illness in the southwest room on the third floor, when the attempt to take his life was made by Payne.

Mr. Blaine lived at 821 Fifteenth street from 1869 to 1882; in his house on Dupont Circle during the winter of 1882 '3, and in the fall of 1889 he purchased the Rodgers House, and, after a lingering illness, died there January 27, 1893, in the same room in which Mr. Seward was attacked and wounded.

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### LINTHICUM PLACE

Is situated on Georgetown Heights. It was purchased by Mrs. Calhoun, the mother of John C. Calhoun, and there he resided with her and his brother James, while Secretary of War under President Monroe. His entertainments in this house were very elegant, one of the most notable being given to Lafayette. He drove in a carriage and four at that time. The house was afterward owned by Brooke Mackall, of Georgetown, and by him sold to Edward Linthicum, who added to the building.

## TUDOR PLACE.

This beautiful home stands on the Heights of Georgetown, on 31st street, between Q and R. It was built on the plan of Mount Vernon by Thomas Peter, who married Martha Custis, the granddaughter of Martha Washington. The hall runs through the centre of the house, opening into a large conservatory. The lawn is very attractive, and from the southern porch is a beautiful view of the Potomac. It is now occupied by Mrs. Beverly Kennon, widow of Commodore Kennon, and only surviving daughter of Mrs. Peter.

Her home is richly stored with relics of Colonial times.

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## THE UNION HOTEL,

On the corner of M and 30th streets, Georgetown, was one of the most popular inns during the first part of the century. Among the distinguished men who were its guests were: Louis Philippe, Count Volney, Baron von Humboldt, Robert Fulton, Talleyrand, Jerome Bonaparte, Rufus King, Washington Irving, General St. Clair, Lorenzo Dow, Francis Scott Key, and many noted Congressmen. Among the most conspicuous of these was John Randolph, who kept his horses at this place, and often drove to the Capitol in a barouche and four, with postillions. Sometimes

he rode on horseback and entered the Senate chamber wearing a pair of silver spurs, carrying a heavy riding-whip, and followed by a favorite hound, which crouched beneath his desk.

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### THE OLDEST SCHOOL HOUSE.

The first public school in Washington was at the southeast corner of Fourteenth and G streets, No. 621 G. It was one of the oldest landmarks in the city, and associated with the earliest recollections of the oldest residents. Thomas Jefferson built it for a stable when he was Secretary of State. It was not long so used, but was by him given to the District early in the century, when a school was needed. He was president of the board of trustees. In 1871 it was used as a carpenter's shop. The largest school building in Washington is now known as the "Jefferson School," on the southeast corner of 6th and D streets.

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### ARLINGTON

Is on the Virginia side of the Potomac, fronting the Capitol, and occupies a lofty and commanding position, between two and three hundred feet above the river. The estate comprises one thousand acres, and was owned by John Parke Custis, the stepson of George Washington, and was inherited by George Washington Parke Custis, the adopted son of General

Washington, who built the present house in 1802. He married Mary Lee Fitzhugh, and their only daughter, Mary Randolph Custis, married Robert E. Lee. She inherited the property from her father. It was sold for non-payment of taxes and bought by the United States Government and made the National Soldiers' Cemetery, the family burial-ground on the place remaining undisturbed. General Lee resided in Lexington, Va., after the war, where he died October 12, 1870. He was buried under the chapel of Lee University, and at his request no funeral oration was pronounced. General Lafayette made several visits to Arlington and pronounced the view from the grand portico the finest he had ever seen, and urged Mrs. Custis to cherish the native forest trees.

March 3, 1883, Congress appropriated \$150,000 for the purpose of removing all claims of the heirs of Gen. Lee upon this property.

— — —

### THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT

Occupies a conspicuous site near the banks of the Potomac, south of the President's House. On the 24th of December, 1799, a resolution introduced by John Marshall passed both Houses of Congress, that a marble monument be erected by the United States in the Capital, at the city of Washington, and that the family of General Washington be requested to permit his body to be deposited under it. Mrs. Washington

assented, but as no appropriation was made nothing was accomplished. Several other propositions were made in Congress, but no final action taken until September 26, 1833, when the Washington National Monument Society was founded by citizens of Washington, with Chief-Justice Marshall as president.

July 4, 1848, the corner-stone was laid, the tools being those used by Washington in laying the corner-stone of the Capitol, September 18, 1793; the oration was delivered by Robert C. Winthrop, then Speaker of the House of Representatives. Work progressed until 1855, when it stopped for want of funds, at 156 feet above the surface. It stood in its unfinished state until August 2, 1876, when a joint committee of Congress and the old society undertook to complete the structure. On August 7, 1880, the first stone of the renewed construction was laid by President Hayes, and from that time until near the close of the year 1884 it progressed rapidly. On December 6, 1884, the cap-stone, 3,300 pounds, was set. The apex is a conical block of American aluminium, and on clear days glistens like a diamond. The finished structure was dedicated February 21, 1885, as the 22d fell on the Sabbath. Robert C. Winthrop wrote the oration, which, in his absence, was read by John D. Long. President Arthur delivered the dedicatory address. The finished monument is 555 feet high; its cost has been about \$1,200,000. It is the highest work of masonry on the globe; it weighs 162,240,800 pounds.

The view from the Monument commands an area over 20 miles in every direction.

